



*Federal Bureau of Investigation
Phoenix, Arizona*



*United States Attorney's Office
District of Arizona*

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TUCSON MAN ARRESTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz.- Joshua F. Wilkinson, 25, of Tucson, was arrested without incident at his home on Tuesday based on a 15-count indictment returned against him by a federal grand jury for violations of Distribution of Child Pornography, Attempted Transfer of Obscene Materials to a Minor and Possession of Child Pornography. At his initial appearance in federal court on Tuesday afternoon, Wilkinson was ordered detained by U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles R. Pyle pending a detention hearing this morning. That detention hearing was continued until Friday, June 2 at 11:00 a.m. in front of U.S. Magistrate Jacqueline Marshall.

"Distribution of Child Pornography over the internet is 21st century rape. Children are twice violated through this crime; once when forced to commit sexual acts, and again when their images are sent out over the internet. We are grateful to the FBI and the Keene, New Hampshire Police Department for their outstanding work on this case," said U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton.

Acting Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Phoenix Division, Keith Bennett, stated, "The FBI's goal concerning crimes against children is to provide a nationwide rapid and effective investigative response to reported federal crimes involving the victimization of children. The FBI appreciates the cooperative efforts of all law enforcement, and specifically in this case, information provided by the Keene Police Department in New Hampshire, as it is imperative to protect our children."

The indictment alleges that Wilkinson responded to a posting on an interactive computer website popular with teens which appeared to be the posting of a 14-year-old boy. In reality, the posting was part of an undercover sting operation and was actually posted by law enforcement. From January 24 to February 17, 2006, Wilkinson engaged in sexually explicit discussion via instant messaging and sent images and movies depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, as well as images of himself masturbating, to whom he thought was a 14-year-old boy. Wilkinson also discussed making arrangements to meet the boy.

The follow-up investigation revealed that Wilkinson was sending the messages, images and streaming video from his residence in Tucson, Ariz. On March 10, 2006, agents executed a search warrant and seized computers, computer related equipment and loose storage media. A subsequent forensic examination of the defendant's computer and loose storage media from his room resulted in the recovery of thousands of images and movies depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

A conviction for Distribution of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison (with a mandatory minimum of five years in prison), a \$250,000 fine and the possibility of lifetime supervised release. A conviction for Attempted Transfer of Obscene Material to a Minor

carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and the possibility of three years of supervised release. A conviction for Possession of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and the possibility of lifetime supervised release. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the FBI and the Keene, New Hampshire, Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0990 TUC

RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-086(Wilkinson)

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